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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN ST. JOHNS COUNTY ADDRESSES THE COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

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**ST. AUGUSTINE, FL** – For the eighth year in a row, St. Johns County is once again ranked **#1** in Florida in Health Outcomes (measures of today’s health) and **#1** in Health Factors (measures of tomorrow’s health) in the national 2019 County Health Rankings Report. This national study highlights the many factors that influence a community’s health. “Health Outcomes” use length of life and quality of life as standard measurements to describe a community’s health. “Health Factors” are indicators that help determine our future health (i.e. factors that can ultimately make us sick or lead to an early death).

The Florida Department of Health in St. Johns County (DOH-St. Johns County) recognizes the value in measuring health outcomes, and today acknowledges the 2019 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps tool released by the University of Wisconsin and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The County Health Rankings use traditional, established data and vital statistics, much of which is obtained through the Department’s web-based community health assessment resource toolkit known as Florida Health CHARTS ([www.FLHealthCHARTS.com](http://www.FLHealthCHARTS.com)).

“The Rankings truly validate the longstanding efforts of working together across the public health system, making St. Johns County a healthy place to live, learn, work, age, and play,” said Dr. Dawn Allicock, Director and Health Officer with Florida Department of Health in St. Johns County. “Community partnerships are leveraged between clinical medicine and population health, to assure conditions for optimal health for people of all ages in St. Johns County.”

“The continued top ranking of St. Johns County in this report reflects the high priority the County places on health and human services, parks and recreation, and other services that contribute to the exceptionally high quality of life in our community.” Paul M. Waldron, Chair, St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners.

“Flagler Health+ is committed to advancing the physical, social and economic health of the communities we serve,” stated Flagler Health+ President and CEO Jason Barret. “We know that achieving our vision is only possible through close collaboration among all our area service providers. This type of collaboration is what continues to set St. Johns County apart.”

“We recognize that many of the health factors utilized in the Rankings are directly tied to the support children receive in school and throughout the community,” said St. Johns County School District’s Superintendent Mr. Tim Forson. “Strengthening relationships with our county health partners heightens our ability to educate and care for the children we serve. I commend the dedication of our educators, families, and community partners to ensure the health and safety of our students.”

“Once again, the results of the Florida Health Rankings demonstrate what we already know; we live in one of the greatest communities in the nation”, said St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office, Sheriff David Shoar. He continued, “St. Johns County incorporates all of the necessary

elements to both live and play in an active community. Collectively, we should be proud of the many shared successes we have accomplished in order to maintain this high ranking.”

The Florida Department of Health in St. Johns County convenes and champions the St. Johns County Health Leadership Council. This nationally-recognized community collaborative consisting of over twenty engaged community partners is dedicated to improving the health of all people in St. Johns County, Florida. The annual Rankings report complement ongoing Community Health Assessment by the Council, and serve as a springboard for community-wide discussion for improving overall community health.

The fifth iteration of the St. John County Community Health Assessment (CHA) was completed by the Council in 2017 using a nationally-recognized, evidence-based approach. This triennial CHA report serves as the foundational element of St. Johns County’s strategic plan for health – the [2018-2020 Community Health Improvement Plan](#) (CHIP) for St. Johns County. The CHIP is designed to address specific opportunities, as identified by the community, to improve health equity for all. St. Johns County’s Health Leadership Council meets regularly to track progress of the community-focused strategies intended to improve health outcomes, to enhance linkages to care, and to strengthen community partnerships.

More information on the national *County Health Rankings* report can be accessed via the web at: [www.CountyHealthRankings.org](http://www.CountyHealthRankings.org)

### **About the Florida Department of Health**

The department, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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